**Remarks by: Mr. Angelito Cadiente**

**Title: Inspirational Speaker**

**To Organization: Graduation Celebration and Reception for**

**Dr. Angelica Danguilan, PhD, and**

**Dr. Mary Grace Bulatao, PhD**

**To Place: 24/7 Inn**

**To Street Address: Maharlika Highway, Solano**

**To City, State, Zip Nueva Vizcaya, PHILIPPINES**

**Day, Date & Time: Thursday, April 7, 2011 at 5:00 p.m.**

**Two Role Models of the Modern Woman**

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen.

What an occasion!

What a wonderful celebration of achievement!

As you know, we are here to celebrate the incredible achievement of two of the Philippines finest educators and its newest doctors….

. Doctor Angelica Danguilan, and

. Dr. Mary Grace Bulatao

It is a very special and very personal honor to be asked to participate in this marvelous celebration honoring…

. Two incredible examples of the massive achievement and growth of women in our society.

. Two incredible educators – each of whom has now reached the highest levels in education and career success.

. Two amazing people who – together – have taught thousands of young people over years, while – at the same time – have been terrific parents of five wonderful and successful children.

Now, the previous speakers have spoken quite eloquently for these two honorees, and my good friend Alain to his beautiful wife Madam Grace, so let me focus on my very special, now Doctor, Angelica Danguilan.

I hope she will forgive me for just calling her Angie.

I know that the recognition and celebration of Angie’s achievements have been greatly heightened by the presence of each and every one of you here.

Some of you have come hundreds if not thousands of miles to share in the joy of this wonderful teacher – these queens of educators, who has given so much to our young people and to our society.

Speaking for her, I know your presence here will be remembered and revered by her, for as long as she lives, which I pray will be very long time.

Clearly, Angie’s life is blessed by having each of you as part of this celebration.

Without question – this special lady – Madam Angie is one of the finest and fastest travelers on today’s education superhighway – the highway on which the success of our society depends.

For it is the teacher and the educator who enable their students to learn and absorbs…

. The beauty and power of language;

. The society-building power of arithmetic and mathematics;

. The civilization-lifting power of science and technology;

. And the life-enriching power of the arts and athletics.

If you ask me to say what are the most powerful and important professions of mankind, I would have to say, they are the parent and teacher.

Why do I make such bold statement?

. Because it is the parent and the teacher who take the capabilities of each generation and pass it on – enhanced and enlightened – to the next.

. It is the parent and the teacher who have the most influence in deciding whether each child and young adult…

. Will be a threat and drain on the society…

. Or a contributor and a builder of the society.

. It is the parent and the teacher who allow each succeeding generation to see further and go farther than its predecessors – because it stands on the shoulders of past generations.

You know – I have heard it said the “great teachers” are born to be teachers and they can only get better with time.

But great educators – now that’s another matter – for great educators….

. Have to be born great teachers;

. Have to be developed as seasoned and learned teachers;

. Have to be molded and educated to understand the world of learning, and

. To the same caring and concern for many.

Doctor Angelica Danguilan is such an educator and she has paid the dues to have that kind of understanding.

While teaching, she also finished her Masters Degree in Physical Education and School Sports, traveling countless hours each trip on weekends to attain this degree.

Now, that’s dedication!

With a Masters in hand, Angie continued to excel in education, and it wasn’t long before she applied for admission to this wonderful and high achieving Saint Mary’s University where she was quickly accepted and began working on her Doctoral Degree.

And – now that she has earned her PhD – she can put her full attention and her full force on making the famous Solano High School system where she’s involved, better and better.

In short, she has risen to the top of a field she has:

. Loved so much;

. Served so well;

. And, sacrificed to for so long.

After coming back into her life, I am in awe of her capabilities, her growth and her accomplishments.

I always knew she was one-of-kind winner, but I never dreamed she would go so far so fast. Amazing!

I know we are here to recognize and praise the educational achievement of these two brilliant women, but I think it is not too far afield to pay tribute to their achievements away from the classroom.

I say that because – while they taught school, enhanced their educations and contributed to society – they also bore and nurtured two wonderful families.

Madam Grace with her husband Alain, have raised three wonderful sons:

. Zuriel Mill

. Jyrus Alain

. And, Ernie Angelo.

Madam Angie – as an incredible single mother – has also raised two wonderful young men…

. Jyrus Jyles,

. And, Emmanuel.

I will comment further on one of these young men in just a minute.

Both these brilliant educators have continually…

. Advanced in their academic achievements and enhanced their skills and talents to make the world a better place.;

. And have planted millions of seeds of knowledge and understanding – knowledge and understanding that will be spread from here to eternity.

. It’s called the learning explosion.

. You teach to 40 in one class;

. Forty each pass to 40 more;

. And, generations later your teaching and counseling has nurtured millions.

A wise poet – now unknown – said, People come into your life for a reason, a season, or a lifetime.

When you figure out which one it is, you will know what to do for each person.

Angie – now an esteemed Doctor – came into my life during our adolescent school years.

We met in a church choir practice – and our young love was a beautiful thing.

It was a beautiful thing because each of us discovered in the other a character and nature that was not only in musical harmony, but in spiritual harmony as well.

At the end of high school, we each went to different collages, but still, we held our bonds together.

In college, however, fate stepped in and tore our lives in different directions…

Me to the other side of the earth as part of the United States Military Service;

And, Angie to continue on toward the completion of her college education, which she did in 1974.

As for me, I went into the Navy, starting on the West Coast of the U.S. and then to the war in Vietnam, and back to America, and became active on several military operations.

During the early days of my military career, during a tour of duty here in the Philippines, I met wooed and married my beautiful wife, and we have an incredible son and daughter.

. Our son, whose name is Angelo, is a Lieutenant in the United States Navy.

. And our daughter, Ana Lisa is an Accountant

On this side of the world, our honoree, Angie, went on to bear and raise a terrific family of her own, on her own, and living somewhat parallel lives, we have much to talk about.

Despite her trials, she devoted herself to both her career and to her family and – as you can see by the degree that she is being given, and by the two marvelous high achieving children who are here to see their mother’s glory.

So, I guess even the most cynical people in this local society would say that Angelica and I came into each other’s lives for two seasons, but – as it turns out – each season was for a reason as well.

But, I was not to discover the first reason until more than 24 years after I left the Philippines, when in 1996, I was told by a source:

. That Angie was teaching and doing well and living back here in Solano;

. That she continued to be a committed educator;

. That she was the mother of two incredible children;

. And one of those children – my son – who later took my name – which has made me incredibly proud.

When I discovered I was a father to a terrific son, Angie, Jyrus, along with Emman, and I began a wonderful long-distance relationship.

Life is indeed stranger than fiction and the poet was right: “People come into your life for a reason, a season, or a lifetime.”

In the first season of our lives together, Angie and I were young and passionate teenagers.

Then after more than two decades later, when I discovered that she and I had a son, we reunited.

But this season in our lives together had a different reason, and our relationship was new, mature, and different – different but equally beautiful.

When I first saw Angie, more than 20 years after I had gone my way and she has gone hers, I was astounded because she was still the same:

. She used to be always happy, zestful and full of energy, and she still was.

. She used to have a passion for life, and for living life to its fullest, and she still did.

. She used to have an empathy and enthusiasm for others, and she still had that pure and open hear of her youth.

. She used to bring joy to the lives of others who crossed her path of life, and I noticed that she could bring out the joy in others – like turning on a light bulb.

As someone once said, “One measure of friendship consists not in the number of things friends can discuss, but in the number of things they need no longer mention.”

Now, clearly Dr. Angelica and I had some catching up to do with each other’s lives after those long years, but…

I never had to be concerned about what her values were, because they were still the same.

I never had to wonder about her beliefs, because they hadn’t changed one bit.

I never had to wonder about what kind of character she held because it was no different from the last day I saw her.

I never had to take a moment of thought about how she would treat me, because she treated me wonderfully before, and she still treats me wonderfully today.

And never, ever – not for one moment – did I have to guess about how her personality had changed, because it hadn’t changed at all.

She was the same bright, warm and cheerful woman.

A second blessing came to me from my reunion with her, and that was my incredible relationship with my son.

And I am eternally grateful for, and proud of our son Jyrus Cadiente, who became a Civil Engineer and is now an Assistant Professor at Nueva Vizcaya State University, in Bayombong.

Now – to fulfill the reason for the two seasons of our life, she has asked that I speak on this occasion.

I am honored to do so, but IO fear that my poor words today are unworthy of her achievements, but here I am.

But – while you may not be inspired by my words, you have to be inspired by the fact that I have been asked by Dr. Angelica to speak at her PhD ceremony.

You have to be inspired by the fact that:

The two of us, who both have names that come from the angels, are able to come to a joyful and wonderful reunion and take pride in each other’s achievements.

That she has chosen me to lead the chorus of friends and relatives in our tribute to her achievements.

That she has brought her son, who know holds my name and his father together.

That she has allowed me to tell the world – As God told the world about Jesus – that this is my son in whom I am well pleased.

After seeing Angie, almost a generation after fate tore as apart; I learned several lessons that are worth noting.

First, I learned that a true and genuine connection you make with another human being cannot be broken.

. It can be changed;

. It can be kept on hold;

. It can mellow and mature;

. It can evolve from the passionate fiery romance to mutually rich supportive and respectful friendship;

And, it can be totally different, but if it’s genuine, it will still hold true.

Well, I see my time has come to an end.

And I’m sure, I could stand up here and talk all day about Angie’s

contributions:

. To my life;

. To her children’s lives;

. To the lives of all her students;

. And, to the lives of everyone in her neighborhood and community, but it wouldn’t be enough.

The ceremonies here this evening have recognized and regarded the

intellect, determination and accomplishment of Dr. Angelica.

Reuniting with her and with my son will be one of the highlights of my life

Having her and my son in my life – along with my family – will make the remainder of my life fully blessed

And, all of us who know and love her admire at. . .

. Her continued achievement;

. Her exemplary lifestyle;

. The number and quality of her friends and supporters;

. The solidarity and success of her family;

. And, her war and compassionate nature.

This evening we celebrate Angie’s earning of her PhD, but in her world, each day is a celebration.

Nelson Mandela said, “Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world.”

And, Dr. Angelica Danguilan is truly changing our world here in the Philippines.

I know each of you is anxious to shake her hand, and to say your own personal “Well Done”, so let me close by asking you to stand, and to give her a rousing round of applause. . . . ., and together, I propose a toast to our newest PhD’s.

May both of you continue to enhance each of those whose lives you touch.

May you continue to find the happiness and joy you seek by contributing to the happiness, joy and capabilities of others.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I give you my dear, Dr. Angelica Danguilan, and Dr. Mary Grace Bulatao.

**CHEERS!**

I thank you!